IN THE CLAIMS:

B' Cont.

1. (currently amended) An actuator ~~Actor~~ unit ~~with~~ comprising:

a piezoelectric ~~actor~~ actuator (1); and ~~disposed in~~

a hollow body (4) having the piezoelectric actuator disposed therein, the hollow body being elastic and biasing the ~~actor~~ actuator, characterized in that the hollow body (4) is joined tensionally and/or positively to the upper and lower end of the ~~actor~~ actuator, and the hollow body being provided with holes (41) which are of a dumb-bell shape and run transversely of the hollow body's axis.

2. (currently amended) The actuator ~~Actor~~ unit according to claim 1, characterized in that the piezoelectric ~~actor~~ actuator (1) is gripped in its direction of expansion between an upper and a lower cover plate (5, 6) which are tensionally and/or positively joined to the hollow body.

3. (currently amended) A hollow ~~Hollow~~ body for biasing a piezoelectric ~~actor~~ actuator, the hollow body being made elastic, characterized in that the hollow body is provided with holes (41) which are of a dumb-bell shape and run transversely of the hollow body's axis.

4. (currently amended) The actuator ~~Actor~~ unit according to claim 1, characterized in that the holes are arranged in rows one above the other, the holes of the rows being laterally offset from one another.

5. (currently amended) The actuator ~~Actor~~ unit according to claim 1, characterized in that the minimum distance between adjacent holes (41) of two rows is one or three times the wall thickness of the hollow body (4).

6. (currently amended) The actuator ~~Actor~~ unit according to claim 1, characterized in that the holes (41) are distributed uniformly over the circumference of the hollow body (4).

7. (currently amended) The actuator ~~Actor~~ unit according to claim 1, wherein the hollow body (4) is made of spring steel and the holes (41) are punched.

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8. (currently amended) The actuator ~~Actor~~ unit according to claim 1, characterized in that the hollow body (4) has at least one weld seam which joins together two abutting edges of the hollow body.

9. (currently amended) The actuator ~~Actor~~ unit according to claim 1, characterized in that the hollow body (4) has two abutment edges which are associated with one another and extend over the entire length of the hollow body.

10. (currently amended) The actuator ~~Actor~~ unit according to claim 1, characterized in that the marginal areas of the holes (41) are at least partially compressed.

11. (cancel without prejudice or disclaimer)

12. (cancel without prejudice or disclaimer)

13. (currently amended) The hollow ~~Hollow~~ body according to claim 3, characterized in that the holes are arranged in rows one above the other, the holes of the rows being laterally offset from one another.

14. (currently amended) The hollow ~~Hollow~~ body according to claim 3, characterized in that the minimum distance between adjacent holes (41) of two rows is one or three times the wall thickness of the hollow body (4).

15. (currently amended) The hollow ~~Hollow~~ body according to claim 3, characterized in that the holes (41) are distributed uniformly over the circumference of the hollow body (4).

16. (currently amended) The hollow ~~Hollow~~ body according to claim 3, wherein the hollow body (4) is made of spring steel and the holes (41) are punched.

17. (currently amended) The hollow ~~Hollow~~ body according to claim 3, characterized in that the hollow body (4) has at least one weld seam which joins together two abutting edges of the hollow body.

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18. (currently amended) The hollow ~~Hollow~~ body according to claim 3, characterized in that the hollow body (4) has two abutment edges which are associated with one another and extend over the entire length of the hollow body.

19. (currently amended) The hollow ~~Hollow~~ body according to claim 3, characterized in that the marginal areas of the holes (41) are at least partially compressed.